

Today Congress voted on HR 4200, the so-called "Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act." This legislation claims to address "emergencies" for forests by expediting environmental procedures. However, HR 4200 goes far beyond this stated goal. It broadens the circumstances termed "emergencies" in which environmental procedures may be waived – to the point of irresponsible stewardship. It allows for new road building – even in roadless areas. It will cost American taxpayers millions. The bill would lift protections of the Endangered Species Act, putting already endangered habitats at greater risk.

In the Congress, we need to enact more environmental protections, not less. This legislation went in the wrong direction. That is why I opposed it and it should not pass the Senate.